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January 17, 1968

Mr. Richard W. Jencks
Vice President and General Counsel
Columbia Broadcasting Co.
51 West 52 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Mr. Jencks,

There is one aspect of our correspondence that is particularly troubling to me. It is that you reiterate a position of policy and not one of fact. The responsibility of so major a source of news and opinion in a society such as ours requires more of you.

You cannot be aware of the content of the broadcasts about which I have written, as aware as you must be to make factual response, without knowing two things:

That you have consistently avoided one of the subjects of this correspondence;

That the purpose and intent of the broadcasts were to attack my honesty, character, integrity or like personal qualities. I think they were in the nature of a personal attack. And I am not a political figure on whom you were making fair editorial comment.

You cannot, seriously, claims yours was a serious, entirely factual presentation and make this claim on the basis of your own study and knowledge. If you have not, I would like to suggest that you may cause CBS additional serious embarrassment. I do think that when a man with your responsibilities within CBS writes as you have written me, you should do so on the basis of something more dependable than a representation to you by one of those responsible for what happened, what CBS did. To put it another way, I think you should try and be a judge rather than a partisan.

So, I again ask that you respond to the entire correspondence, going back to mine with Mr. Midgley.

Were I to identify those CBS stations that offered me the opportunity to respond to your radio contraction of the TV series, in advance of its airing but after the people involved had seen the TV series, I would subject them to retaliation. This I cannot do. These were CBS stations, not affiliates. It may be true that Mr. Midgley has no knowledge of it, but it did happen, and I did make the phone call asked by one when I was in New York. And it was more than one station. You know what stations aired the program and which, if any, presented the other side.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg